
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 461

AN ACT CONCERNING PERSONS AUTHORIZED TO SERVE AS ARMED SECURITY GUARDS IN SCHOOLS.

SUMMARY:

This bill allows a municipality or board of education to hire or contract with two additional categories of retired police officers to provide armed school security services. These are individuals who are sworn:

1. federal law enforcement agents who retired or separated in good standing from federal law enforcement service or
2. officers from an organized out-of-state police department who
(a) are certified under standards that meet or exceed Connecticut's Police Officer Standards Training (POST) Council certification standards and (b) retired or separated in good standing from their department.

In both cases, the individuals must also be "qualified retired law enforcement officers" as defined in the federal Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA) (see BACKGROUND).

The bill does not specify who determines whether a retired officer's out-of-state certification meets or exceeds Connecticut POST Council certification standards.

By law, to be eligible to provide armed school security services, the retired officers must also complete annual (1) public school security personnel training provided by the POST Council and (2) firearms training that meets or exceeds POST Council or LEOSA standards, provided by a certified firearms instructor.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2014

BACKGROUND

Retired Police Officer as Armed School Security

Current law defines a “retired police officer” who is eligible to provide armed school security as an individual who is a “qualified retired law enforcement officer,” as defined in LEOSA, and is a sworn member of:

1. an organized local police department who was certified by the POST Council and retired or separated in good standing from that department or
2. the Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and retired or separated in good standing from the division (CGS § 10-244a of the 2014 Supplement).

LEOSA

This 2004 federal law governs, among other things, the carrying of firearms by qualified retired law enforcement officers. It defines a “qualified retired law enforcement officer” as an individual who:

1. separated in good standing from service with a public agency as a law enforcement officer;
2. before separation, was allowed by law to engage in, supervise, or incarcerate any person for the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of any law violation;
3. has either (a) served as a law enforcement officer for 10 or more years or (b) separated from service due to a service-related disability;
4. has met, within the past year, firearm training standards for active law enforcement officers established by the former public agency employer, state of residency, or state-certified firearms instructor;
5. has not (a) been found unqualified for active duty by a medical

professional due to mental health issues or (b) entered into an agreement with the former public agency employer acknowledging lack of qualification for mental health reasons;

6. is not under the influence of alcohol or an intoxicating or hallucinatory drug or substance; and
7. is not prohibited from receiving a firearm under federal law (18 USC § 926C(c)).

POST Council Certification Standards

By law and regulation, the POST Council has the authority establish police certification standards (CGS § 7-294d(5) of the 2014 Supplement; Conn. Agencies Regs. § 7-294e-3). Currently, the council requires candidates to complete 880 hours of basic training before becoming eligible for certification.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 38 Nay 0 (03/28/2014)